

Management Unit 1: LISBURNE

Background

Location and Land Ownership. The Lisburne Unit includes the lands on the Lisburne Peninsula west of the National Petroleum Reserve, within the North Slope Borough. Most of the land in this unit is Native corporation land. The remainder is mainly a mix of state-owned and state-selected land. The unit also contains small parcels of private land, such as Native allotments and patented mining claims. Much of the state-selected area overlaps Native selections. The state also owns all the tidelands and submerged lands within three miles of the coast and the protected inland waters in this unit, such as Kasegaluk, Omalik, and Mapsorak lagoons, and Marryat Inlet. Federal lands at Cape Thompson and Cape Lisburne are within this unit, and are part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

Resources and Land Use. This unit includes the communities of Point Lay and Point Hope. Resources in the unit are used mainly by residents of Wainwright, Point Lay, Point Hope, and Kivalina. Hunting, fishing, egging, whaling, and trapping are the major human uses of the state uplands and tidelands in this area. The lands and waters provide habitat for moose, brown bear, polar bear, caribou, furbearers, ducks and geese,

belukha whales, salmon, whitefish, char, and capelin. Coal, oil and gas, and mineral resources underlie some state and Native lands. Some coal deposits are being studied for economic feasibility, but there is no active mining at present. The oil and gas potential of the Lisburne Management Unit is the highest of the entire planning area. State oil and gas lease sales were proposed for the Icy Cape area, but have been postponed.

Access. Access is difficult to most of this unit. The main access is by boat and trail along the coastline and along major rivers. Boatable rivers include the Utukok, Kokolik, Kukpowruk, Ipewik, Pitmegea, Kukpuk, Ayugatak, Akalolik, Kugirarok, Uyakturok, Ogatoruk, and Wulik. Airports exist at Point Hope and Point Lay. Wheelplane landings are feasible along much of the outer coast, in the Lisburne Hills, and along portions of the Wulik River.

Management Intent

General. State land in this unit will be kept in public ownership and managed for multiple use. Except for three seabird colonies, state land within the unit will remain open to new mineral

entry. All state land in this unit will be available for leasing for oil and gas. All state land is available for coal leasing except within one-quarter mile of the seabird rookery at Corwin Bluffs. State shorelands in this unit will be managed consistent with the general management intent described on page 3-4.

Subunits. There are five subunits in the Lisburne management unit: 1a (habitat and harvest tidelands), 1b (general use uplands), 1c (coal/habitat and harvest lands), 1d (general use tidelands), and 1e (habitat and harvest uplands). The general management intent for these subunits is described on pages 3-4 to 3-6.

The *Resource Information Summary* chart for this unit highlights important resource values found in each subunit. The summary is based on information from various resource reports prepared for the plan (see appendices C and D).

The *Land Use Designation Summary* chart for this unit provides a quick picture of planned uses for each subunit. For a complete description of management policy, the chart must be used with the statement of management intent and the management guidelines.

Coastal Plans. State land within 25 miles of the coast and along the Kukpuk River is within the North Slope Borough Coastal Management Plan (CMP) boundary (see maps in Appendix J). Activities on state land within this unit will be managed consistent with CMP policies. In this unit, two areas have been recommended for Areas Meriting Special Attention (AMSA) designation by the coastal management program: Cape Thompson, and the Kasegaluk Lagoon and barrier island tidal system. When this designation is adopted for these areas, management of state land within the AMSAs will be consistent with AMSA policies.

Management Guidelines

Bird Rookeries and Subsurface Resources (Subunits 1a, 1c, 1d, and 1e). The occurrence of unique nesting habitat on the barrier islands and seacliffs, and the presence of abundant food resources in nearby offshore waters enable the area to support some of the north-

ernmost seabird colonies. Nine species of seabirds regularly breed on the seacliffs--most prominent are the common murre, thick-billed murre, and black-legged kittiwake. Murres and kittiwakes are found in large colonies. Lesser colonies of pelagic cormorants, glaucous gulls, black and pigeon guillemots, and horned and tufted puffins are also present.

Most state land in these subunits remains open to new mineral entry. However, state uplands within a quarter-mile radius of three seabird colonies--Solivik Island, Icy Cape Spit, and Corwin Bluffs--will be closed to new mineral entry to protect this important habitat (subunits 1e and 1c). These colonies are shown on the *Subsurface Designation Summary Map*, page 2-51, and described in detail in Appendix H, *Mineral Orders for the Northwest Area Plan*. Coal leasing will not be allowed on state uplands or tidelands within a quarter-mile radius of Corwin Bluffs seabird rookery (subunit 1c). The tidelands are closed to coal leasing, but not to mineral entry because of the high coal potential and likelihood for conflicting uses. For other guidelines that apply to bird rookeries on state land within these subunits, see *Fish and Wildlife Habitat* Guideline K, page 2-8.

Commercial Recreation (Subunits 1a, 1c, 1d, and 1e). *Public and Commercial Recreation* Guideline D, page 2-23, describes state management for commercial recreation. For these subunits, this guideline prohibits commercial recreation leasing in the following areas: 11 anadromous stream mouths or enclosed estuaries, 4 marine mammal haulouts, and 20 seabird rookeries, as shown on the management unit map.

Mouths of Anadromous Streams or Enclosed Estuaries (Subunits 1a and 1d). *Fish and Wildlife Habitat* Guideline J, page 2-8, describes state management for mouths of anadromous streams and narrow openings of enclosed estuaries, such as lagoons, inlets, or basins. These areas are shown on the management unit map. For many of these stream mouths and estuaries, the location of the opening is dynamic, and the guideline will apply to their location at the time of a proposed action. Within these subunits, this guideline applies to the following areas:

Anadromous Streams

Kokolik River
Kukpowruk River
Kukpuk River
Pitmegea River
Utukok River

Enclosed Estuaries

Akunik Pass
Icy Cape Pass
Kukpowruk Pass
Marryat Inlet
Naokok Pass
Utukok Pass

Selections (Subunits 1b and 1e). The plan recommends selecting blocks of land on the Lisburne Peninsula for high mineral and coal potential, oil and gas potential, and consolidation of land ownership patterns. The state should also consider selecting areas of mineral or oil and gas potential when they are reconveyed to the Bureau of Land Management from Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. See further description in Chapter 4, *Proposed State Land Selections*, page 4-1.

General. The complete set of areawide guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. The *Resource Information Summary* charts for this unit identify important trails, known or probable heritage sites, and other resource values in specific subunits that are addressed by the appropriate guidelines in Chapter 2. Any Chapter 2 guidelines could apply to certain uses within this management unit. Those most likely to apply are

Coordination and public notice
Fish and wildlife habitat
Heritage resources
Public and commercial recreation
Subsistence activities and traditional uses
Subsurface resources
Trail management

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 1: Lisburne - Page 1 of 2

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	1a	1b	1c
Fire protection	N/A	Modified protection for Lisburne Hills and west of hills. Remainder of units limited protection.	Limited
Fish and Wildlife	A1: at four mouths of anadromous streams, 19 bird rookeries. A2/B1: belukha, polar bear, caribou, moose, brown bear, ducks & geese, capelin spawning, anadromous fish.	B2; brown bear, moose, polar bear, ducks & geese (in northern portion), caribou.	A1: one bird rookery at Corwin Bluffs. Mostly B1/A2, southeastern portion B2; polar bear denning, moose, caribou, brown bear, ducks & geese, anadromous fish & capelin spawning.
Forestry	N/A	None	None
Heritage Resources	Known sites at Pt. Lay & southern Kasegaluk Lagoon, along coast from Cape Lisburne to Corwin Bluffs; probable sites from Cape Thompson to Mapsorak Lagoon.	Probable sites along Epizetka R.; around Kuvirok, Tunusiktok, Munik, and Pugutak lakes.	Known sites along Kasegaluk Lagoon and from Cape Lisburne to Corwin Bluffs.
Important Trails	Kotzebue - Barrow winter trail along coast. Kivalina to Cape Thompson heavily used.	Important trail access along Kukpuk River inland to Cape Sabine; Kokolik River trail.	Kukpowruk River trail.
Minerals	Unknown; known coal deposits along coast south of Kukpowruk R.	Mostly low and moderate, some high, some very low. Mostly low coal potential.	Known coal deposits west of Corwin Bluffs and along Kasegaluk Lagoon south of Kukpowruk R; high coal potential; low mineral potential.
Oil & Gas	Northern portion within past proposal for Icy Cape lease sale (moderate potential). Remainder low or unknown. Hope Basin offshore from subunit.	Northern portion within past proposal for Icy Cape lease sale (moderate potential). Remainder low or unknown.	Northern portion within past proposal for Icy Cape lease sale (moderate potential). Remainder low or unknown.
Public access	Wheelplane landings at Point Lay, Point Hope, and along outer coast except Point Hope to Cape Lisburne; boat & trail access along coastline; three passes provide boat access from Chukchi Sea to Kasegaluk Lagoon.	Plane landing site in Lisburne Hills. Boatable rivers include Ayugatak, Akalolik, Kugirarok, Uyakturok, Ogatoruk; local trails, trail along Kokolik R.	Local trails; boat on Kukpowruk R; wheelplane access along coast.
Recreation	Unknown	Potential along Avak R.	Potential along Kukpowruk R.
Reindeer Grazing	N/A	None	None
Settlement Suitability	N/A	Mostly unsuitable with low potential one mile from access points, and along Kokolik R.	Mostly unsuitable; low to moderate along Kukpowruk R.
Subsistence	Subsistence use in this unit has been documented by studies of the DF&G, Subsistence Division, for the communities of Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kivalina, Noatak, Noorvik, Point Hope, Point Lay, and Wainwright. Subsistence use by other communities—such as Barrow and Kotzebue—is known to exist, but the extent of their use has not been documented in studies for the NWAP.		

See Appendix C for a list of reports with more detailed information, and Appendix D for definition of ratings.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 1: Lisburne - Page 2 of 2

RESOURCE	1d	SUBUNIT 1e
Fire protection	N/A	Limited
Fish and Wildlife	A1: one bird rookery and one anadromous stream mouth (Pitmegea R.); B1: belukha, ringed seal, walrus, bowhead, brown bear, moose, caribou.	A1: four bird rookeries, one anadromous stream mouth (Utukok R.); A2/B1: Polar bear denning, moose, brown bear, caribou, ducks & geese on coast, capelin spawning, anadromous fish. Areas upgraded for human use; lower Utukok R., Kukpowrak drainage uplands near Omalik Lagoon, lower Kukpuk R. and uplands either side of Kukpuk R.
Forestry	N/A	Low to none
Heritage resources	Probable sites along coast.	Known sites near mouth of Kugachiak R. along Kukpowruk River near Chevron Hill, along Wulik R. west of Sheep Mountain, and from Cape Lisburne to Corwin Bluffs. Probable sites near Kisimilok Mtn. along Epizetka R.
Important Trails	Kotzebue - Barrow trail.	Kokolik R. trail; Utukok R. trail.
Minerals	Unknown; few claims along Chucki Sea area from Cape Dyer to Cape Beaufort; known coal deposits along coast from Corwin Bluff to Cape Beaufort.	Low and moderate. Medium to high coal potential along Alalolik Creek and near Taktalak Creek. "Mostly low coal potential in remainder of unit.
Oil & Gas	Northern portion within past proposal for Icy Cape lease sale (moderate potential). Remainder low or unknown.	Unknown potential within Lisburne Hills. Low potential in remainder of unit. Portions within past proposal for Icy Cape oil and gas lease sale.
Public Access	Wheelplane access along coast.	Plane landing site at sheep ranch and along coast. Boatable rivers include Ipewik, Pitmegea, Kukpuk, Utukok; trail along Utukok R. and Kokolik R.; local trails.
Recreation	Unknown	Potential along lower Utukok and Avak Rivers.
Reindeer Grazing	N/A	None
Settlement Suitability	N/A	Mostly unsuitable. Some low near access points and moderate potential near Chevron Hill; some low to moderate along lower Utukok R. & Kokolik R.
Subsistence	Subsistence use in this unit has been documented by studies of the DF&G, Subsistence Division, for the communities of Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kivalina, Noatak, Noorvik, Point Hope, Point Lay, and Wainwright. Subsistence use by other communities--such as Barrow and Kotzebue--is known to exist, but the extent of their use has not been documented in studies for the NWAP.	

See Appendix C for a list of reports with more detailed information, and Appendix D for definition of ratings.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 - LISBURNE

SUBUNIT	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS			COMMENTS
	PRIMARY SURFACE USE ¹	PROHIBITED SURFACE USE ²	SUBSURFACE ³	
1a	Habitat & harvest tidelands	Remote cabins Commercial rec. leases in some areas	Open	
1b	General use uplands	Land disposals Remote cabins	Open	1/2 township proposed for state selection
1c	Coal/ Habitat & harvest lands	Land disposals Remote cabins Commercial rec. leases in some areas	Open, except within 1/4 mile of 1 seabird rookery	
1d	General use tidelands	Remote cabins Commercial rec. leases in some areas	Open	
1e	Habitat & harvest uplands	Land disposals Remote cabins Commercial rec. leases in some areas	Open, except within 1/4 mile of 2 seabird rookeries	Approximately 4 townships pro- posed for state selection

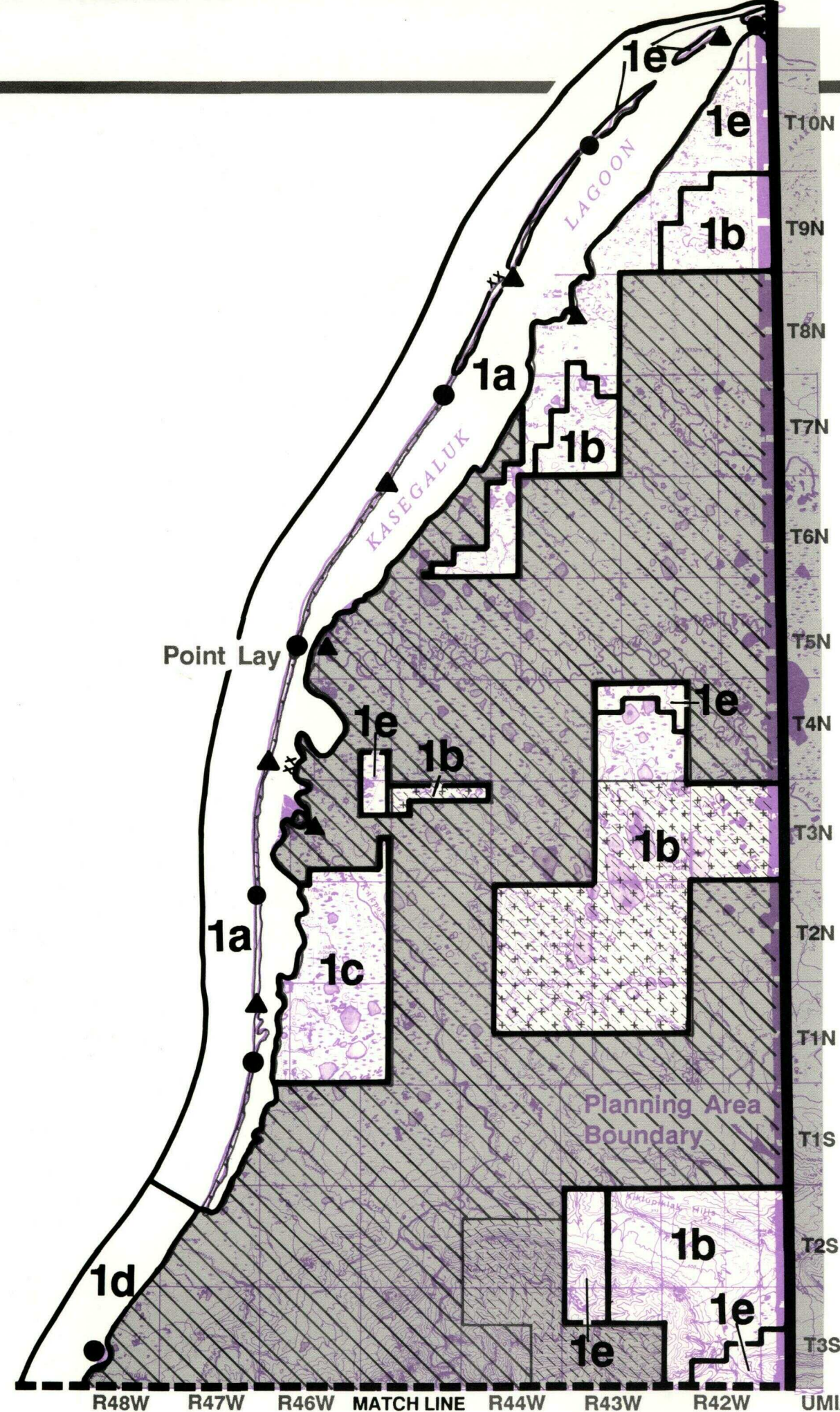
¹No secondary use was identified.

²Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

³Except for coal leasing at the Corwin Bluffs rookery (in subunits 1a and 1c), all areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals. See glossary in Appendix A for definitions of leasable and locatable minerals. See Appendix H for detailed descriptions of areas closed to mineral entry.

Northwest Area Plan

LISBURNE

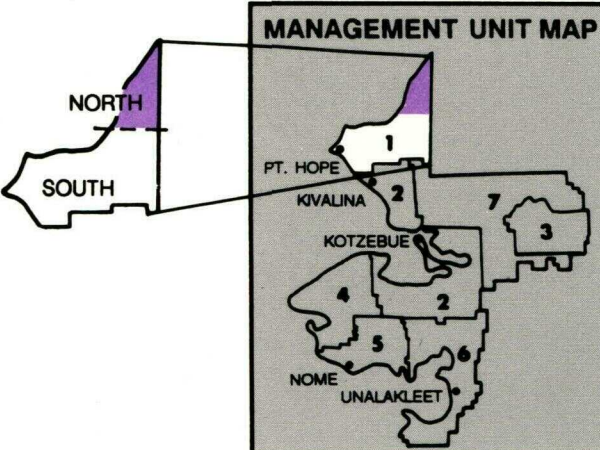


LEGEND

- Management Unit Boundary
- 1a Subunit Boundary
- No Pattern State Owned
- + + State Selected
- Native Owned
- Native Selected
- Native/State Selected
- Federal
- X Marine Mammal Haulouts
- Bird Rookeries
- ▲ Anadromous Stream Mouths or Enclosed Estuaries

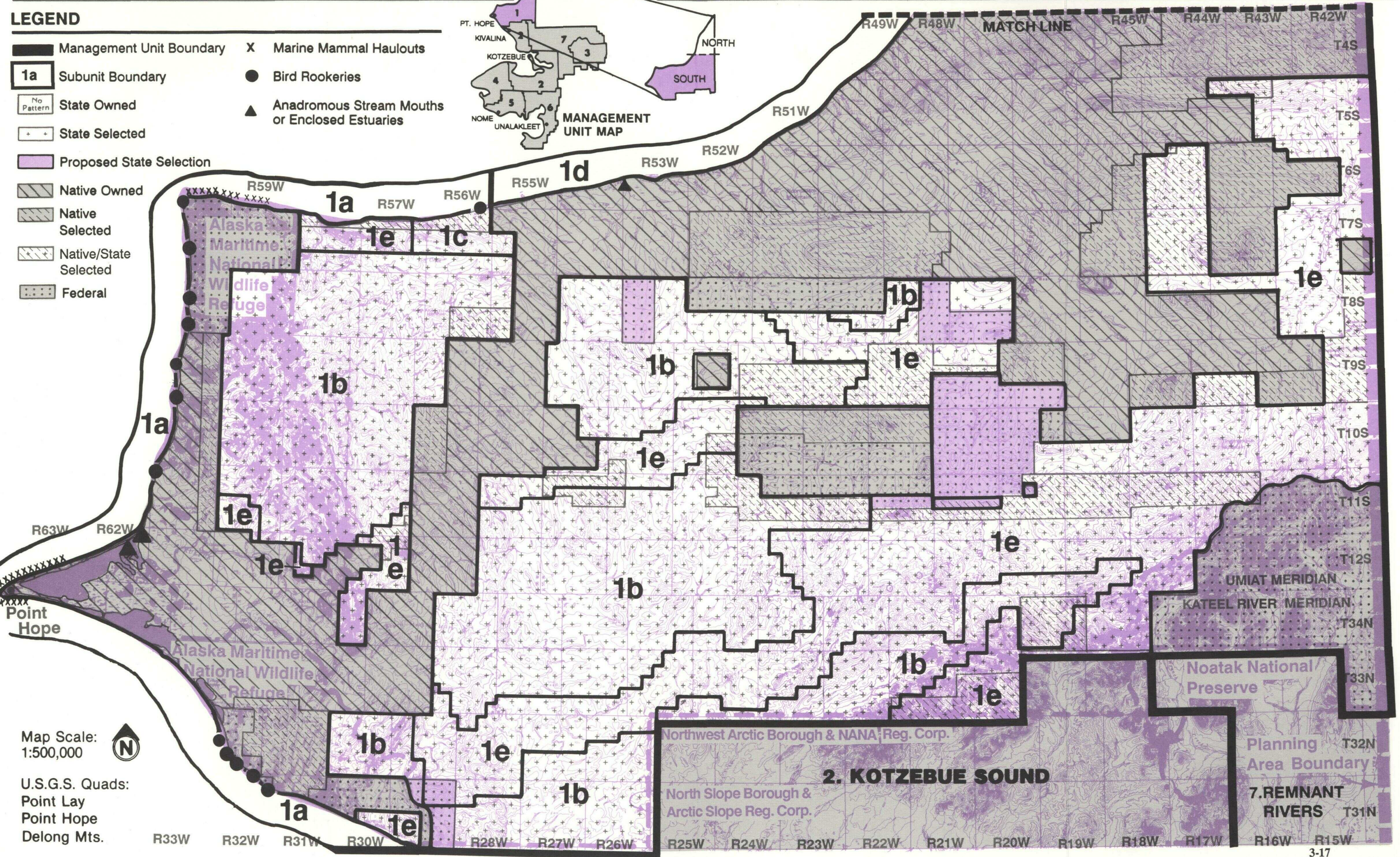
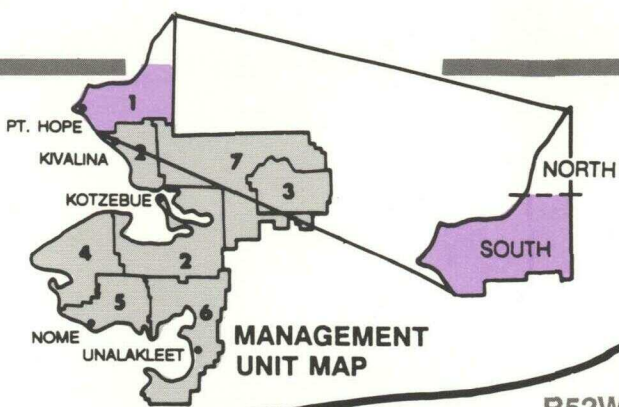
Map Scale:
1:500,000

U.S.G.S. Quads:
Wainwright
Point Lay



LEGEND

- Management Unit Boundary
- 1a Subunit Boundary
- No Pattern State Owned
- + + State Selected
- Proposed State Selection
- Native Owned
- Native Selected
- Native/State Selected
- Federal
- X Marine Mammal Haulouts
- Bird Rookeries
- ▲ Anadromous Stream Mouths or Enclosed Estuaries



Map Scale: 1:500,000

U.S.G.S. Quads: Point Lay, Point Hope, Delong Mts.